PERIDERMIUM PYRIFORME AND ITS PROBABLE ALTERNATE HOST.

J. C. ARTHUR.

EARLY in June of this year I received from Dr. Charles Thom a specimen of *Peridermium pyriforme* Peck, collected near Storrs, Conn., on branches of *Pinus rigida* Mill. This is a species rarely seen, only three previous collections being known,[1] and its discovery in a locality where it can be under observation and study is a matter of interest. The species forms numerous and conspicuous aecia on the smaller branches, bursting out through the bark, and showing as large white peridia filled with orange spores. The affected branches are not much swollen by the fungus, and are usually small, less than 2.5 cm., rarely up to 5 cm. in diameter.

So far as known, all species of *Peridermium* on the bark of pines are the aecial stages of corresponding forms of *Cronartium*. Upon the receipt of Dr. Thom's collection the question of the probable telial host presented itself. In the eastern United States only two species of *Cronartium* have so far been recognized: *C. Quercus* (Brond.) Schroet., and *C. Comptoniae* Arth. In the same general region there are also two bark forms of *Peridermium* on pine: *P. Cerebrum* Peck, and *P. pyriforme* Peck. It has been proven by means of cultures, performed independently by Dr. C. L. Shear and the writer, that *P. Cerebrum* is the aecial stage of *C. Quercus*, and it was a simple inference that *P. pyriforme* doubtless belongs to *C. Comptoniae*.

While this information was being communicated to Dr. Thom, the spores which he had sent, and which were not yet dry, were sown on *Myrica cerifera*, a plant of *Comptonia* in good growing condition not being available at the time. No infection was obtained by this sowing. This negative result is without much significance, however, as no examination was made to see if the spores germinated.

The next observations on the rust in the field were made July 5, when Dr. Thom found *Comptonia peregrina*, growing "all around the bases" of the affected pine trees, showing abundance of the characteristic uredinia of *Cronartium Comptoniae*. The spores of the *Peridermium*

[1] See Bull. Torrey Club xxxiii. 420 (1906), where the history of these collections is given.

had now largely disappeared. Both at this time and at the earlier visit on June 4 no examples of the *Peridermium* were found more than 3 dm. above the ground, and the infection was mostly on very small trees, or on small branches near the ground.

The three previous collections of this *Peridermium* were also on small branches. Two of them were made by Mr. J. B. Ellis at Newfield, N. J., one in 1882 on *Pinus virginiana* Mill., distributed in his N. Am. Fungi *no.* 1021, and the other in 1890 on *P. rigida* Mill. The third collection has little import, as it was made in the Missouri Botanical Garden, and if it really belongs to this species, was doubtless brought to the Garden on plants obtained in the eastern states. The rust on *Comptonia* is common in the region about Newfield, N. J.

Of the common forms of *Aecidium* and *Roestelia* many have been definitely associated with their corresponding telial forms. But of the twenty-seven known species of *Peridermium* in North America, which number doubtless represents not more than half the full number that exists, only three have yet been connected by cultures with their telial forms, hence one element of interest in the observations of Dr. Thom. The publication of this note is intended to supply the clue to any one who may be fortunately situated, and inclined to undertake cultures of this rust, which can best be made during the month of May.

Purdue University, Lafayette, Indiana.

The Record of Color Varieties of Gratiola at Westfield, a clerical Error.— On page 123 of the current volume of Rhodora it was stated that the white and light yellow forms of *Gratiola aurea* had been found at Westfield, Massachusetts. Miss Emily F. Fletcher has called our attention to the fact that this was probably a clerical error and that the station where the plants were found was in reality Westford, which is in Middlesex County, and not Westfield as stated. Reference to Dame & Collins's Flora of Middlesex County, Massachusetts, shows that Miss Fletcher is quite right and that in fact the station was Westford and not Westfield as quoted through some oversight.—Ed.

A Pink-petaled Form of Clethra alnifolia.— Several years ago I found on the edge of Watuppa Lake, Fall River, Massa-